

THE
SATURDAY MAGAZINE.

VOL. I.—NO. 23.

Philadelphia, December 8, 1821.

Miscellany.

FROM THE LONDON LITERARY GAZETTE.

The Rise and Progress of the Gentleman's Magazine, with Anecdotes of the Projector, and his early Associates. By John Nichols, F. S. A., &c. London, 1821. 8vo. pp. 80.

A few copies of this little work, intended as a preface to the general index of the Gentleman's Magazine, from 1787 to 1818, have been printed separately, and privately distributed. One of these is now before us, and offers too many topics for our consideration, to admit of being passed over without some marks of attention.

Whether we look at the venerable age of the Gentleman's Magazine; at its character and consistency; at its intrinsic value as a repertory of history, science, antiquities, biography, and literature; at its claims as the mirror of almost a century; or at perhaps its still higher claims, on account of the important influence it has had in the production of that periodical press, which now gives a tone to the age and operates so essentially in the destinies of mankind;—in whichever of these points of view we look at this work, it certainly presents much for reflection to the public in general, and to the Editors of any similar undertaking in particular. To us, indeed, it is a subject of peculiar gratification. We have always held a very favourable opinion of this publication, and have constantly admired the steady pace with which it pursued its useful and entertaining objects, like a fine veteran, who has fought the battles of other years, and adheres to his formal regimentals, accoutrements, and discipline, uninfected with the popinjay innovations in dress, arms, and manœuvring, which modern fashions introduce. We regard it too, as the respectable father of a long and numerous line of Letters, of great consequence to the world, and when we open its pages, taste the same sort of feeling, as if we were shaking hands with a respected old relative, from whose stores of experience and friendly chat we were sure to reap a pleasant hour's amusement. We are not sure that vanity has not some share in these kindly and complacent emotions; we perhaps indulge a thought, that our *Weekly* Miscellany, so strong in its youth, may equal, in longevity, its *Monthly* predecessor; and when its columns (not enfeebled, but strengthened by time) attain a like reverend age, that they may be contemplated by a multitude of successful compeers, as the patriarchal origin and source of all their beneficial efforts to diffuse knowledge, encourage worth and virtue, and augment the happiness of the human race. These, 'tis true, are proud aspirings, yet we cannot be insensible to the influence which even our humble endeavours exercise, and we are certain, that this additional mode of propagating a love of literature and science,

must soon come to be cultivated more at large, with a striking effect upon the manners and interests of society.

A truce, however, to egotism. The author of this book, in his 76th year, thus states his purpose, independent of its prefatory character. "Not to enter too deeply into the *arcana* of a Miscellaneous Publication, the very nature of which depends on a sort of Masonic secrecy, it may not be improper to introduce a few anecdotes, and to unfold some particulars, over which concealment is no longer needful. If I should in some instances be thought too minute, let it be attributed to the proper cause, the natural garbularity of age.

"This long established periodical miscellany was commenced in January, 1731, by Edward Cave; who, by the admirable Memoir of Dr. Johnson, has been consigned to deserved celebrity."

This biography is so well known as to need no notice, and we shall only observe, in favour of the fair sex of our day, that it is probable, no young man would now meet, as poor Cave did, with two "insolent" and "perverse" mistresses in succession, to drive him from his employments, whether as clerk to a collector of excise, or apprentice to a printer.

The first number of the Gentleman's Magazine was published in January, 1731, at St. John's Gate, and one of the reasons assigned for starting it was, to form a collection or *Magazine* of the essays, intelligence, &c. which appeared in the "200 half sheets per month," which the London press was *then* calculated to throw off, besides "written accounts," and, about as many more half sheets printed "elsewhere in the three kingdoms." Of the plan devised by Mr. Cave, Dr. Kippis says, "the invention of this new species of publication may be considered as something of an epocha in the literary history of this country. The periodical publications before that time were almost wholly confined to political transactions, and to foreign and domestic occurrences. But the magazines have opened a way for every kind of inquiry and information. The intelligence and discussion contained in them are very extensive and various; and they have been the means of diffusing a general habit of reading through the nation, which, in a certain degree, hath enlarged the public understanding. Many young authors who have afterwards risen to considerable eminence in the literary world, have here made their first attempts in composition. Here, too, are preserved a multitude of curious and useful hints, observations, and facts, which otherwise might have never appeared; or, if they had appeared in a more evanescent form, would have incurred the danger of being lost. If it were not an invidious task, the history of them would be no incurious or unentertaining subject. The magazines that unite utility with entertainment are undoubtedly preferable to those (*if there had been any such*) which have only a view to idle and frivolous amusement."

These remarks are very just, and merit the regard of most of our monthly brethren; of some of them, because they seem too often to think that mere badinage and drolling are enough for this species of publication; of others, because they make their principal stand upon indifferent and wirey papers, written by persons of unstored minds; and of all, because the rare combination of utility and entertainment is frequently sacrificed to partiality, selfish views, personal provocations, and vapid nothings. To the credit of the Gentleman's Magazine, it must be allowed that it invariably contains a portion of useful information, does adhere to the recognised characteristics of that class of compositions to which it belongs, and without being (to our apprehension) so vigorous as it might be in its critical department, offers a fair and agreeable miscellany for popular suffrage.

But the most interesting part of the preface is the account it gives of the early intercourse of Dr. Johnson and other eminent men with periodical

literature. Many of the anecdotes are piquant, and may, we presume, from the integrity of the quarter whence they are derived, be considered authentic. Among other things, Mr. Nichols says, "the tenor of this narrative requires that the name of Dr. Johnson should be prominently brought forward, in his early correspondence with Cave; which led to an uninterrupted friendship, and ultimately to Johnson's permanent celebrity." * * *

"Speaking to me in conversation of his own employment, on his first arrival in town, Dr. Johnson observed, that he applied, among others, to Mr. Wilcox, then a bookseller of some eminence in the Strand; who, after surveying Johnson's robust frame, with a significant look said, 'Young man, you had better buy a porter's knot!'—The great moralist, far from being offended at the advice which had been given to him, added, 'Wilcox was one of my best friends.'—He added, that Cave was a generous paymaster; but, in bargaining for poetry, he contracted for lines by the hundred, and expected the *long hundred*." * * *

"Sir John Hawkins, speaking of Johnson's translations, says, 'Cave's acquiescence in the above proposal drew Johnson into a close intimacy with him. He was much at St. John's Gate; and taught Garrick the way thither. —Cave had no great relish for mirth, but he could bear it; and having been told by Johnson, that his friend had talents for the theatre, and was come to London with a view to the profession of an Actor, expressed a wish to see him in some comic character. Garrick readily complied, and, as Cave himself told me, with a little preparation of the room over the great arch of St. John's Gate, and with the assistance of a few journeymen printers, who were called together for the purpose of reading the other parts, represented, with all the graces of comic humour, the principal character in Fielding's farce of the *Mock Doctor*."

In the preface to the Vol. for 1740, we detect the Doctor's style. For example:—"Having now concluded our Tenth Volume, we are unwilling to send it out without a Preface, though none of the common topics of prefaces are now left us. To implore the candour of the public to a work so well received, would expose us to the imputation of affected modesty or insatiable avarice. To promise the continuance of that industry, which has hitherto so generally recommended us, is at least unnecessary; since from that alone we can expect the continuance of our success. To criticise the imitations of our Magazine, would be to trample on the dead, to disturb the dying, or encounter the still-born. To recommend our undertaking by any encomiums of our own, would be to suppose mankind have hitherto approved it without knowing why. And to mention our errors or defects, would be to do for our rivals what they have never yet been able to do for themselves."

It is further stated, "a new æra in politics bringing on much warmer parliamentary debates, required 'the pen of a more nervous writer than he who had hitherto conducted them;' and 'Cave, dismissing Guthrie, committed the care of this part of his monthly publication to JOHNSON;' who had already given ample specimens of his ability. But the Lilliputian disguise was still continued, even beyond the period of Johnson's Debates; [which, as has been authenticated by his own Diary, began Nov. 19, 1740, and ended Feb. 23, 1742-3.] And these Debates, which, every competent judge must allow, exhibit a memorable specimen of the extent and promptitude of Johnson's faculties, and which have induced learned foreigners to compare British with Roman eloquence, were hastily sketched by Johnson while he was not yet 32, while he had little acquaintance with life, while he was struggling, not for distinction, but existence."

The truth of this assertion is corroborated by a singular story. In 1743, after the publication of the *Life of Savage*, which was anonymous, "Mr.

Walter Harte, dining with Mr. Cave, at St. John's Gate, took occasion to speak very handsomely of the work. Cave told Harte, when they next met, that he had made a man very happy the other day at his house, by the encomiums he bestowed on the author of *Savage's Life*. 'How could that be?' Cave replied, 'You might observe I sent a plate of victuals behind the screen. There skulked the biographer, one Johnson, whose dress was so shabby that he durst not make his appearance. He overheard our conversation; and your applauding his performance delighted him exceedingly.'"

These extracts will serve to show, that the present publication possesses curious attractions not to be expected from its title. We shall quote another instance. Mr. Boyse was a correspondent of the *Gentleman's Magazine* between 1741 and 1743. "When in a spunging-house in Grocers'-alley, in the Poultry, he wrote the following letter to Cave, which was communicated by the late Mr. Astle to the late Dr. Kippis.

"*Inscription for St. Lazarus' Cave.*

"Hodie, teste cælo summo,
Sine panno, sine nummo,
Sorte positus infestè,
Scribo tibi dolens mæstè :
Fame, bile tumet jecur,
URBANE, mitte opem, precor
'Tibi enim cor humanum
Non à malis alienum :
Mihi mens nec malè grata,
Pro à to favore data.
Ex gehennâ debitoriâ,
Vulgò domo spongiatoriâ.

ALCÆUS.

"SIR,—I wrote you yesterday an account of my unhappy case. I am every moment threatened to be turned out here, because I have not money to pay for my bed two nights past, which is usually paid before-hand, and I am loth to go into the Compter, till I can see if my affair can possibly be made up; I hope, therefore, you will have the humanity to send me half a guinea for support, till I finish your papers in my hands.—The Ode to the British Nation I hope to have done to-day, and want a proof copy of that part of Stowe you design for the present Magazine, that it may be improved as far as possible from your assistance. Your papers are but ill transcribed. I agree with you respecting St. Augustine's Cave. I humbly entreat your answer, having not tasted any thing since Tuesday evening I came here; and my coat will be taken off my back for the charge of the bed, so that I must go into prison naked, which is too shocking for me to think of. I am, with sincere regard, Sir,

"Your unfortunate humble servant,

"S. BOYSE.

"*Crown Coffee-house, Grocer's-alley, Poultry, July 21, 1742.*

"I send Mr. Van Haren's Ode on Britain.

"To Mr. Cave, at St. John's Gate, Clerkenwell."

"July 21, 1742. Received from Mr. Cave the sum of half a guinea, by me, in confinement. S. BOYSE."

"The greater number of the Poems which Boyse wrote for the *Gentleman's Magazine*, during the years above mentioned, are reprinted in Mr. Alexander Chalmers's late edition of the *English Poets*; but all his fugitive pieces were not written for the Magazine, some of them having been composed long before he had formed a connexion with Cave, and, as there is reason to believe, were sent in manuscript to such persons as were likely to make him a pecuniary return. Mr. Boyse died in May, 1749."

We must now conclude, which we do with one other extract of literary interest, and with sincere respect for the patriarch of our craft, to whose deserts we are happy in having had an opportunity to offer our tribute. "I have, (says Mr. N.) mentioned, on the authority of Sir John Hawkins, that the price given by Mr. Robert Dodsley for 'London,' Johnson's first imitation of Juvenal, was *fifty pounds*. But Mr. Boswell says, 'the fact is, that at a future conference, Dodsley bargained for the whole property of it, for which he gave Johnson *ten guineas*; who told me, 'I might, perhaps, have accepted of less; but that Paul Whitehead had a little before got ten guineas for a poem; and I did not like to be less than Whitehead.'—For 'The Vanity of Human Wishes,' his second imitation of Juvenal, in 1749, with all the fame which he had acquired, it is certain that he received only *fifteen guineas*."

FROM HUMBOLDT'S PERSONAL NARRATIVE.

DIRT EATERS.

"The inhabitants of Uruana belong to those *nations of the savannahs* (*Indios andantes*,) who, more difficult to civilize than the *nations of the forest*, (*Indios del monte*,) have a decided aversion to cultivate the land, and live almost exclusively on hunting and fishing. They are men of a very robust constitution; but ugly, savage, vindictive, and passionately fond of fermented liquors. They are omnivorous *animals* in the highest degree; and therefore the other Indians, who consider them as barbarians, have a common saying, 'nothing is so disgusting that an Otomac will not eat it.' While the waters of the Oroonoko and its tributary streams are low, the Otomacs subsist on fish and turtles. The former they kill with surprising dexterity, by shooting them with an arrow, when they appear at the surface of the water. When the rivers swell, which in South America, as well as in Egypt and in Nubia, is erroneously attributed to the melting of the snows, and which occurs periodically in every part of the torrid zone, fishing almost entirely ceases. It is then as difficult to procure fish in the rivers which are become deeper, as when you are sailing on the open sea. It often fails the poor missionaries, on fast-days as well as flesh-days, though all the young Indians are under the obligation of 'fishing for the convent.' At the period of these inundations, which last two or three months, the Otomacs swallow a prodigious quantity of earth. We found heaps of balls in their huts, piled up in pyramids three or four feet high. These balls were five or six inches in diameter. The earth which the Otomacs eat is a very fine and unctuous clay, of a yellowish grey colour; and, being slightly baked in the fire, the hardened crust has a tint inclining to red, owing to the oxid of iron which is mingled with it. We brought away some of this earth, which we took from the winter provision of the Indians; and it is absolutely false, that it is steatitic, and contains magnesia. Mr. Vauquelin did not discover any traces of this earth in it; but he found that it contained more silex than alumin, and three or four per cent. of lime.

"The Otomacs do not eat every kind of clay indifferently; they choose the alluvial beds or strata that contain the most unctuous earth, and the smoothest to the feel. I inquired of the missionary, whether the moistened clay were made to undergo, as Father Gumilla asserts, that peculiar decomposition, which is indicated by a disengagement of carbonic acid and sulphuretted hydrogen, and which is designated in every language by the term of *putrefaction*; but he assured us, that the natives neither cause the *clay* to rot, nor do they mingle it with flour of maize, oil of turtles' eggs, or fat of the crocodile. We ourselves examined, both at the Oroonoko and after our return to Paris, the balls of earth which we brought away with us, and found

no trace of the mixture of any organic substance, whether oily or farinaceous. The savage regards every thing as nourishing that appeases hunger; when, therefore, you inquire of an Otomac on what he subsists during the two months when the river is the highest, he shows you his balls of clayey earth. This he calls his principal food; for at this period he can seldom procure a lizard, a root of fern, or a dead fish swimming at the surface of the water. If the Indian eat earth from want during two months, (and from three quarters to five quarters of a pound in twenty-four hours,) he does not the less regale himself with it during the rest of the year. Every day in the season of drought, when fishing is most abundant, he scrapes his balls of *poya*, and mingles a little clay with his other aliment. What is most surprising is, that the Otomacs do not become lean by swallowing such quantities of earth; they are, on the contrary, extremely robust, and far from having the belly tense and puffed up. The missionary Fray Ramon Bueno asserts, that he never remarked any alteration in the health of the natives at the period of the great risings of the Oroonoko.

"The following are the facts in all their simplicity, which we were able to verify. The Otomacs, during some months, eat daily three quarters of a pound of clay slightly hardened by fire, without their health being sensibly affected by it. They moisten the earth afresh when they are going to swallow it. It has not been possible to verify hitherto with precision how much nutritious vegetable or animal matter the Indians take in a week at the same time; but it is certain that they attribute the sensation of satiety which they feel, to the clay, and not to the wretched aliments which they take with it occasionally. No physiological phenomenon being entirely insulated, it may be interesting to examine several analogous phenomena, which I have been able to collect.

"I observed every where within the torrid zone, in a great number of individuals, children, women, and sometimes even full-grown men, an inordinate and almost irresistible desire of swallowing earth; not an alkaline or calcareous earth, to neutralize (as it is vulgarly said) acid juices, but a fat clay, unctuous, and exhaling a strong smell. It is often found necessary to tie the childrens' hands, or to confine them, to prevent their eating earth, when the rain ceases to fall. At the village of Banco, on the bank of the river Magdalena, I saw the Indian women who make pottery continually swallowing great pieces of clay."

The author goes at some length into analogies and reasoning on them, but we confine our quotation principally to the facts.

"The negroes on the coast of Guinea delight in eating a yellowish earth, which they call *caouac*. The slaves who are taken to America try to procure for themselves the same enjoyment; but it is constantly detrimental to their health. They say, 'that the earth of the West Indies is not so easy of digestion as that of their country.'"

* * * * *

"In the Indian Archipelago, at the island of Java, Mr. Labillardière saw, between Surabaya and Samarang, little square and reddish cakes exposed to sale. These cakes, called *tanaampo*, were cakes of clay, slightly baked, which the natives eat with appetite. The attention of physiologists, since my return from the Oroonoko, having been powerfully fixed on these phenomena of *geophagy*, Mr. Leschenault (one of the naturalists of the expedition to the Southern Lands under the command of Captain Baudin) has published some curious details on the *tanaampo*, or *ampo*, of the Javanese. 'The reddish and somewhat ferruginous clay,' he says,* 'which the inhabi-

* "Letter from Mr. Leschenault to Mr. de Humboldt on the Kind of Earth which is eaten at Java. (See *Tableaux de la Nature*, vol. i. p. 209.)"

tants of Java are fond of eating occasionally, is spread on a plate of iron, and baked, after having been rolled into little cylinders in the form of the bark of cinnamon. In this state it takes the name of *ampo*, and is sold in the public markets. This clay has a peculiar taste, which is owing to the torrefaction; it is very absorbent, and adheres to the tongue, which it dries. In general it is only the Javanese women who eat the *ampo*, either in the time of their pregnancy, or in order to grow thin; the want of plumpness being a kind of beauty in this country. The use of this earth is fatal to health; the women lose their appetite imperceptibly, and no longer take without disgust a very small quantity of food: but the desire of becoming lean, and of preserving a slender shape, can brave these dangers, and maintains the credit of the *ampo*.^{*} The savage inhabitants of New Caledonia also, to appease their hunger in times of scarcity, eat great pieces of a friable *lapis ollaris*.^{*} Mr. Vauquelin analysed this stone, and found in it, beside magnesia and silex in equal portions, a small quantity of oxid of copper. Mr. Goldberry had seen the negroes in Africa, in the islands of Bunck and Los Idolos, eat an earth of which he had himself eaten, without being incommoded by it, and which also was a white and friable steatite.[†]

* * * * *

"When we reflect on the whole of these facts, we perceive that this disorderly appetite for clayey, magnesian, and calcareous earth, is most common among the people of the torrid zone; that it is not always a cause of disease; and that some tribes eat earth from choice, while others (the Otomacs in America, and the inhabitants of New Caledonia, in the Pacific Ocean) eat it from want, and to appease hunger."

* * * * *

"The observations, which I made on the banks of the Oroonoko, have been recently confirmed by the direct experiments of two distinguished young physiologists, Messrs. Hippolyte Cloquet and Breschet. After long fasting, they ate as much as five ounces of a silvery green and very flexible laminar talc. Their hunger was completely satisfied, and they felt no inconvenience from a kind of food, to which their organs were unaccustomed. It is known, that great use is still made in the East of the bolar and sigillated earths of Lemnos, which are clay mingled with oxid of iron. In Germany, the workmen employed in the quarries of sandstone worked at the mountain of Kiffhäuser spread a very fine clay upon their bread, instead of butter, which they call *steinbutter*,[‡] stone butter; and they find it singularly filling, and easy of digestion."[§]

FROM THE EDINBURGH PHILOSOPHICAL JOURNAL.

NOTICES RELATING TO THE NIGHTINGALE.

"The nightingale, (*Motacilla lusciniæ*), so justly famed for its enchanting song, does not visit this northern part of England so frequently as it did forty or fifty years ago; this is a fact agreed upon by all persons, to whom I have made application on the subject, and who have noticed the arrival, and other particulars relative to this bird. Whatever may be the cause, it is confessedly seldom heard in this part of the island. I well recollect going, about eighteen years ago, when I was a boy, to a small coppice at a short distance from my paternal roof, to listen to the dulcet notes of this

* "*Labillardière*, vol. ii. p. 205."

† "*Goldberry, Voyage en Afrique*, vol. ii. p. 455."

‡ "This *steinbutter* must not be confounded with the *mountain butter*, *bergbutter*, which is a saline substance, owing to a decomposition of aluminous schists."

§ "*Freiesleben, Kupferschiefer*, vol. iv. p. 118. *Kesler*, in *Gilbert's Annalen*, B. 28. p. 492."

nightly warbler: from that time to the present year I had never heard it, till the 9th June last, in the evening of which day it was heard, at a short distance from my residence; and for several successive evenings, I heard it even before retiring to rest, or, as I reposed on my bed, I believe at every intermediate hour from eleven to three. I strongly suspected its nest was in a small thicket, composed of hawthorn, laburnum and filbert bushes, situated at one end of my garden, as I often saw the bird there, particularly in the evening about sunset, when it began some slight chirping, but retired generally to the NE. by E., to a thick and high hawthorn hedge, and occasionally to NW., or near that point, in the same hedge where it always sung. The two diverging lines from the thicket to its station, forming very nearly a right angle, I fancy the wind blowing from different points of the compass, might be the cause of the bird's choosing those different parts of the hedge for its nightly station, in order that the sound of its voice might be borne by the gentle breeze, to the hen-bird during the time of incubation. I did not find the nest in the thicket, being unwilling to disturb so rare a visitant; indeed it would not perhaps have been easily practicable, as the place in the thickest part is not very accessible, overhanging an old stone-quarry. I frequently observed the nightingale in the day time perched in the thicket, and also noticed that it often carried thither insects, &c. most probably for the support of the female during her confinement; as the male-bird does not sit on the eggs at all. One fine evening, just after sunset, I approached near the thicket as silently as possible, and, standing under the shade of a *Syringa* bush, I began to play upon a flute very softly the beautiful air by Pleyel, known by the name of the 'German Hymn;' and at the same time a pupil of mine stood in such a situation as to have a pretty distinct view of the thicket. I had scarcely got through the air, when the nightingale was heard to chirp, and, during the second time of my playing it, my young friend saw it hop through the bushes with great celerity towards the place where I stood, at the same time making a sort of sub-warbling, which it soon changed into its usual melodious and lengthened song; but, on my companion's speaking to me, it immediately heard, and most probably observed him, as he immediately saw it fly to the hedge in which it was wont to sing. I regret much it was disturbed, as I have no doubt but the sound of the flute had at that time excited it to sing, as it was never known to do so *there*, either before or after that time. (It is said, and I believe truly, that the nightingale never sings very near its nest.) Both the places in the hedge in which it sung were about 110 to 120 yards from the thicket, and from 40 to 50 from my door. A goldfinch (*Fringilla carduelis*), which had been taught several peculiar notes, was two or three times hung up in a cage in the thicket; it was singular and amusing to hear the nightingale endeavour to imitate the goldfinch, which it would sometimes do, mixing with its imitations its native notes. I could never observe that it approached the cage, as other small birds did when the goldfinch was calling. It at all times appeared peculiarly timid. About the middle of July much rain fell here, after that time I neither saw nor heard the plaintive warbler, which had, nightly, for about five weeks, serenaded us with his matchless song."

RUSSIAN LANGUAGE: FROM BOWRING'S ANTHOLOGY.

"The mother-tongue, of nearly forty millions of human beings, and which in the course of thirteen centuries has undergone no radical change, is entitled to some attention. All Russian grammarians claim for it an antiquity at least equal to that of the city of Novogorod. The oldest written documents that exist are two treaties with the Greek emperors, made by Oleg,

A. D. 912, and Igor, A. D. 943. Christianity, introduced into Russia at the beginning of the eleventh century by Vladimir the Great, brought with it many words of Greek origin. The Tartars added considerably to the Vocabulary during the two centuries of their domination. The intercourse which Peter the Great established with foreign nations increased it still more; and of late years a great number of words have been amalgamated with it from the French, German, and English. It is now one of the richest, if not the richest, of all the European languages, and contains a multitude of words which can only be expressed by compounds and redundant definitions in any northern tongues. Schlözer calculates, that of the five hundred roots on which the modern Russ is raised, three-fourths of the number are derived from Greek, Latin, and German. Many are of Sanscrit origin, of which Adelung published a list in 1811.*

"Printing was introduced into Russia about the middle of the sixteenth century. The oldest printed book which has been discovered is a Slavonic Psalter, bearing the date Kiev, 1551; two years after, a press was established in Moscow. The Slavonic alphabet, said to have been introduced by Cyrillus in the ninth century, consists of forty-two letters. The modern Russ has only thirty-five."

THE POWER OF IMAGINATION.

About seventeen years since, the inhabitants of Hammersmith were alarmed by the mischievous pranks of some person, who, arrayed in a white sheet, acted the part of a ghost, choosing the church-yard for the theatre of his exploits. The sequel of this adventure was of a very tragical description: an exciseman and another individual, provided with fire-arms, sallying out in the evening with a view to detect the ghost, met, not the real object of their search, but a harmless bricklayer in a light working dress. The exciseman seized with a sudden panic, discharged his gun at the supposed apparition, and thus occasioned the death of a fellow creature.

For some weeks previous to this accident, the newspapers teemed with accounts of spectres. The most curious, if not the most formidable, of these phantoms, was one which appeared in St. James's Park; and which proved to be an optical deception, contrived by some young gentlemen belonging to Westminster school.

Happening to be in company with a party of friends soon after these occurrences, a conversation arose on the subject of supposed supernatural spectacles. A gentleman present, who is now dead, told the following story, with a view to demonstrate that the most striking cases of spectral visitations did not depend entirely on the imaginations of those who were the subjects of such delusions. Struck with the singularity of the narrative, I begged him to give it me in writing; and to oblige me, he drew up the ensuing statement.

Several years ago, calling on a friend, who resided at Y——, in Somersetshire, soon after he had lost his wife, to whom he had been united but six weeks when she died, I was by no means surprised to find him deeply plunged in grief. But making him a second visit in the following year, when nearly twelve months had elapsed since his misfortune, and perceiving that his sorrow and melancholy, far from being alleviated, were considerably increased, I thought it right to expostulate with him on the unreasonableness of indulging in unavailing contemplation on a distressing accident, which shocking as it was, ought not to unfit a man of sense and resolution from performing with alacrity the common duties of his station.

* "*Rapports entre les Langues Russe et Sanscrite.*

The replies he made to the exhortations of this kind which I addressed to him, soon convinced me, that the profound melancholy in which he was involved, arose from some cause which he felt unwilling to acknowledge. He was a man possessed of much good sense and acquaintance with the world; but his education had been neglected, and he was almost a stranger to those sciences which are now often cultivated by persons of his rank and fortune. In the first conversation I had with him, I could learn no more than that his mental anxiety originated in something which had occurred subsequent to the death of his wife. This made me more desirous to gain his confidence; and, a few days afterwards, I obtained from him a disclosure of the singular circumstances which had operated on his imagination, and reduced him to a state of mind, which had led several of his friends to form serious apprehensions for the stability of his intellects.

He spoke as follows:—"I should not expect to gain your credit to the statement I shall make, if I did not believe that I could afford you ocular demonstration to the truth of what I am about to tell you. The courtship between my poor Louisa and myself was, as you know, a long one. In the interviews and correspondence I had with her, sufficient opportunities were afforded me for discovering her sentiments and opinions on a variety of subjects. On one point alone we completely differed. She was prepossessed with a firm belief that the ghosts of the dead were sometimes allowed to revisit the scenes of their earthly existence. I had been accustomed to regard stories of apparitions with an incredulity closely bordering on contempt; and was therefore seriously vexed to find, that I could neither by ridicule nor reasoning, overcome her strong prejudice in favour of what I had always considered a vulgar error. She did not, however, want for arguments to support her own notions, and they were sometimes so ingeniously urged, that I found myself by no means able satisfactorily to combat them.

"At length, as we perceived that our respective reasonings did not tend to produce conviction, but that, as it often happens, each party continued to think as before, we, by tacit consent, avoided the subject, and had recourse to themes which could create no difference between us; though I am disposed to conjecture, that she would have been less unwilling than I was to renew the discussion, especially after our marriage. On one occasion only, however, was the doctrine of spectral visitations agitated by us, and then she, feeling apparently hurt at the little respect I expressed for the understandings of those who could credit ghost stories, hastily, yet firmly, said, 'Charles, if I die before you, depend on it you will not continue a sceptic a month after my decease.' I was vexed with myself for having said any thing which could make her express herself so warmly and positively on what I thought a frivolous subject; but I should have soon forgotten the expression, if her sudden death, three days after this conversation, had not led me to retrace, as closely as possible, every thing that had passed between us during the short period that I was blessed with her society. Her funeral took place a fortnight after she died, and that over, I had more leisure for reflection. The evening after I had seen her remains committed to the tomb, I was sitting alone in the room where we were when she made the strange declaration I have just mentioned. In such a situation, I could not fail to recollect it. The more I thought of it the more it puzzled, and I must own, alarmed me. I endeavoured to banish from my mind the mysterious prediction, but in vain. At first I reasoned with myself on the folly of giving way to superstitious notions, which I then thought deserved to be considered as the cast-off opinions of a less enlightened age than our own. But finding it impossible to dismiss the subject from my thoughts, I gradually retraced the arguments by which my late wife had been accustomed to try to persuade me of the probability of an intercourse with the dead. She

would sometimes say, that the virtuous friends whom we had lost might still watch over us, and even make themselves visible to mortal eyes, for the purpose of warning, consoling, or instructing them. 'Perhaps,' thought I, 'such was the office she herself expected to fill, when she uttered the expression on which I have been pondering.' This idea so often recurred to me, that I was persuaded I had discovered the meaning of her words. I then began sometimes to hope, and sometimes to dread, that my lost Louisa would appear to me. As the period she had mentioned drew towards a termination, I felt when alone a sort of restless anxiety which was almost unbearable. I could think of nothing else. Had it been easily practicable, I should have sought society; but circumstances preventing me, I was under the necessity of trusting to my own resolution to support me under the mental conflicts to which I was exposed. My wife had been dead a month all but three days, when I considered, that, if the time she had specified should elapse without any thing extraordinary taking place, my apprehensions might subside. The idea made me more cheerful; and I began to think I had shown weakness and folly in tormenting myself as I had done in giving way so much to reflection on words uttered under the influence of prejudice. In the evening, I felt myself considerably relieved from the load of anxious and tormenting thoughts which had oppressed me. I took a walk in my garden, and thence strolled into the adjoining fields. I continued there till it was late, and was preparing to return home, when the moon, rising above a grove of trees at a distance, attracted my attention. It was near the full, and shown with particular brightness. Its general appearance and situation reminded me of the evening of my remarkable conversation with Louisa; and it immediately occurred to me, that it was on that day month it had happened. In an instant all my apprehensions on the subject of spectral visitations returned; and I felt an internal conviction that the hour was come in which I should be made a convert to the sentiments of my deceased wife. I was almost afraid to look round lest some appalling object should meet my view. The moon, however, gave too much light to admit of my being deceived as to the forms of the objects around me. I wished myself at home; and, with hesitation and dread, prepared to return thither.

"You know, that about half a mile from my house are the ruins of a church, which heretofore belonged to a nunnery. It was long after the reformation used for parochial worship; but, a chapel having been built in a more central part of the parish, the old church was abandoned to the rooks and owls, which have taken up their residence in it. The area, however, is still used as a burying place; and here the remains of my Louisa were deposited. This place was situated in the direct road by which I was returning home. Such a spot, at this season, and in a temper of mind like that I have described, could not be approached without perturbation of mind. However, I retained perfect possession of my faculties, and, should what I am now going to relate lead you to doubt this assertion, I must beg you to suspend your judgment till you have heard the whole of my story; and if that should not convince you, I must be content to be considered as a visionary till you have yourself witnessed the appearance which has so often perplexed and alarmed me.

(To be continued.)

FROM THE EDINBURGH MAGAZINE.

THE ANT.

After reading the works of Huber, I became very desirous of repeating some of his experiments, and with that view, erected, in a convenient spot,

an ant hillock, insulated somewhat after the manner of that described by him, and which I could easily make to communicate at pleasure with the rest of the field, by means of a turf gangway or ladder. Not being satisfied with the population of my formicary, I removed from an adjacent field, as cautiously as possible, two ant hills with all their property, and placed them on the table, so as to form one mass. No sooner had the shock occasioned by the suddenly imposed heap subsided, than on all sides a rushing of the old tenantry among the invaders was observed on crossing their antennæ, and thus, not recognising them as friends, an indiscriminate battle took place, and for some time my efforts to put a stop to the war were fruitless. At last I threw among the combatants a handful of steeped oats, and this had the desired effect: each party seizing as much of the booty as they could obtain, conveyed it to their several holes, and as I watched when the field was clear, I imposed a temporary wall of separation.

The weather was cold, and at sunset very few were stirring. Next morning, I found the new comers busily employed in repairing their apartments, airing their pupæ, and examining their situation. As I was not afraid of a battle when they had so much else to do, I removed the barrier, and tapped for the aborigines to appear; and I was happy to observe that although there were a few combats, yet on the whole they seemed to coalesce. About mid-day, I was much amused by observing some ants who had found their way to the water by which the formicary was insulated, conducting, and, indeed, dragging their companions down the legs of the platform, that they might also enjoy the refreshing beverage. Two days after, I let down the communicating pathway, and being suddenly called away, I forgot to remove it. On my return two or three hours after, I found the hillock greatly depopulated, and immediately guessing that my new colonists had decamped, I felt my curiosity excited to know where they had gone, nor was I long in suspense, for the regular long file of the marching fugitives led me to the very spot whence I had removed them, and there I found them twenty-five yards distant, penetrating into the broken turf, and collecting there their abandoned young! I soon found also that they did not intend to remain, but that finding their new abode more eligible, they had come with the intention of conveying their pupæ, &c. to that colony. I observed them on their march when they met their comrades; they would lay down their loads, cross their antennæ, and in some instances compel the stragglers to join them and help them with their burdens. After I found they had been attached to their new abode, I every day at ten o'clock let down their ladder, and amused myself by watching their industrious motions as they collected and conveyed home provisions, or stubble for their architecture. As I removed it in the evening few stragglers were lost, and if any remained abroad they sheltered themselves near the cistern, and in the morning would run up the ladder and suffer themselves to be stroked by their comrades, who would feed and caress them.

One day, the ladder having been insecurely placed, was, by some accident, knocked down, and the foraging party having their retreat thus cut off, were put to shifts to devise a method of regaining their stronghold. The ladder had fallen in such a manner, that one extremity of it rested on the edge of the cistern, so that it was only about three inches distant from the legs of the formicary. I chanced to pass, and as I was about to replace it, I was arrested by a scene, which induced me to pause and watch its completion. The ants finding out what was necessary in order to reach their nest, were all astir dragging a straw up the steep, and having got it to the edge of the ladder, and projected it across the chasm, were attempting to cross as I approached. I observed one of them fall into the water, as he nearly reached the other end, owing to his weight having overbalanced his

slight bridge, and several were struggling in the water, who, I suppose, had, like him, too daringly attempted to cross. The next adventurer fell also, and brought the bridge along with him. What followed was wonderful. A strong party immediately set out, and returning with a larger straw, soon launched it across, and while one of them set out upon it, five or six others placed themselves upon the other end, and thus preserving its balance, allowed the traveller to pass over in safety! Nor was this all, for the latter was no sooner arrived, than running up the legs of the platform, he, followed by others, stopped all he met, and striking his antennæ smartly across those of the housekeepers, seemed to communicate what was going on, and in a short time a relay of labourers appeared, laden with pellets of clay, &c. with which they immediately set to work, and in a few minutes had completely secured their little bridge, so that the whole party passed and re-passed with their loads in the most perfect security!

I am, Sir, respectfully, yours,

PHYSICUS.

FROM HUMBOLDT'S PERSONAL NARRATIVE.

ROASTED MONKEYS.

The manner of roasting these anthropomorphous animals contributes singularly to render their appearance disagreeable in the eyes of civilized man. A little grating or lattice of very hard wood is formed, and raised one foot from the ground. The monkey is skinned, and bent into a sitting posture; the head generally resting on the arms, which are meagre and long; but sometimes these are crossed behind the back. When it is tied on the grating, a very clear fire is kindled below. The monkey, enveloped in smoke and flame, is broiled and blackened at the same time. On seeing the natives devour the arm or leg of a roasted monkey, it is difficult not to believe, that this habit of eating animals, that so much resemble man in their physical organization, has, in a certain degree, contributed to diminish the horror of anthropophagy among savages. Roasted monkeys, particularly those that have a very round head, display a hideous resemblance to a child; the Europeans, therefore, who are obliged to feed on quadrumanes, prefer separating the head and the hands, and serve up only the rest of the animal at their tables. The flesh of monkeys is so lean and dry, that Mr. Bonpland has preserved in his collections at Paris an arm and hand, which had been broiled over the fire at Esmeralda; and no smell arises from them after a great number of years.

FROM THE PERCY ANECDOTES.

HUNGARIAN PEASANTRY.

It is difficult to conceive a state of greater moral degradation, or more abject slavery, than that of the peasantry in Hungary; the worst period of English villenage was never half so oppressive; and the state of the Serfs of Russia is one of freedom and happiness, compared with that of the Hungarian peasant; the Russian Serf does his quantity of labour, and insures support and protection in sickness and in age; but not so the wretched Hungarian, who may always be dismissed at the will of his lord.

The peasants in Hungary, were formerly bound to perform indefinite services, until Maria Theresa put the whole under regulations, by fixing the quantity of land upon each estate, which was to remain irrevocably in the possession of the peasantry, giving to each peasant his portion, called a *Session*, and describing the services which should be required of him by his lord in return. The quantity of land varies from twenty to thirty acres, accord-

ing to the quality of the soil. The services required of the father of the family, are one hundred and four days during the year, if he work without cattle; or fifty-two days, if he bring two horses or oxen; or four, if necessary with ploughs and carts. Besides this, he must give four fowls and twelve eggs, and one pound and a half of butter; and every thirty peasants must give one calf yearly. He must also pay a florin for his house, must cut and bring home a klaster of wood; must spin in his family six pound of wool or hemp, provided by his lord; and among four peasants, he also claims what is called a long journey, that is, they must transport twenty centvers, each one hundred pounds weight, the distance of two days' journey out and home; and besides all this, each peasant must pay one tenth of the products of his industry to the church, and one ninth to the lord.

These services, heavy as they are, form not the whole of the claims on the peasantry, who pay tribute from which their lords are exempt, maintain all the soldiers that pass through the country, execute all the public works, such as roads, bridges, &c.; in fact, it can safely be said, that there is no limit to the services which they are compelled to perform. What aggravates these grievances a thousand-fold is, that the Hungarian peasant is subject to stripes and imprisonment at the will of his lord, who too often exercises his authority with unsparing cruelty.

What the consequences of so debasing a system must be, it is easy to foretel: but "look on that picture and on this," and see the beneficial effects which an enfranchisement of the vassals instantaneously produces.

Count Festitis having purchased an estate in the Murakos, a tract of country between the Muhr and the Drave, he granted lands to the peasants at a fixed annual rent, a few only remaining on the common tenure of service. In these free villages, the value of land has risen to such a degree, that the owner of four acres is esteemed wealthy, and the population has increased from fifty families to six hundred. Although still subject to the government duties, and suffering from the effects of two bad seasons and an inundation of the Drave, these peasants were, in 1814, striving cheerfully with the difficulties of their situation, while their neighbours on the common footing, although each family possessed thirty acres, were reduced to subsist on the tardy bounty of their lord. These free villagers also afford an exception to the general dishonesty of the Hungarian peasantry; their household furniture is often exposed on the outside of their cottages, and does not even require the protection of the large dogs common in the rest of the country.

FROM THE NEW MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

NOCTURNAL INCREASE OF SOUNDS.

Humboldt endeavours to account for the increase of sounds during the night, from observing that the presence of the sun affects the propagation and intensity of sound by the obstacles opposed to its transmission by currents of air of different densities and partial undulation—the result of the unequal heating of various parts of the earth's surface. In air at rest, whether it be dry, or mixed with elastic vapours equally distributed through it, the sonorous undulation is propagated without difficulty. But when this air is crossed in every direction by small currents of a warmer temperature, the sonorous undulation divides into two waves, at the spot where there is the most sudden change in the density of the medium; thus producing partial echoes, which weaken the body of sound, because one of the sonorous waves is reflected back upon itself. The theory of these partitions of sonorous waves has been explained by M. Poisson.* It is not, therefore,

* Ann. de Chimie, t. 7.

the motion of the passage of the particles of air from below upwards, nor the small oblique currents of this fluid that we consider as opposing, by impulse, the propagation of the sonorous waves. A *stroke* or impulse impressed on the surface of the liquid will form circles around the impinging centre, even when the liquid is in agitation. Several kinds of waves may cross in air, as well as in water, without interfering with each other; but the true cause of the less intensity of sound in the day-time appears to be the want of homogeneity in the elastic medium. There is at this time a sudden change of density throughout, produced by small currents of air, of a high temperature, rising from portions of the earth's surface that are unequally heated. The sonorous waves are then divided in the same manner as luminous rays are refracted, and form a *mirage* of sound wherever strata of air of unequal density are contiguous. A distinction must be kept between the *intensity* of sound or of light, and the *direction* of the sonorous or luminous wave. When these waves are propelled across strata of different densities two simultaneous effects will be produced—there will be a change in the direction of the wave, and extinction of light or sound. The reflection that accompanies each refraction weakens the intensity of light; the separation of the sonorous wave causes partial echoes, and that portion which returns on itself becomes insensible to our ear, in weak noises, at the spot where the density of the medium suddenly changes. In the *mirage* with double images, that which has undergone refraction contiguous to the earth is always weaker than the direct image. Strata of fluids, of very different density, may so alternate, that the primitive direction of the luminous or the sonorous ray will remain the same, but the intensity of the ray will be not the less weakened on that account. During the night the surface of the earth cools; the parts covered with grass, or with sand take the same temperature: the atmosphere is no longer crossed by currents of hot air, rising obliquely or vertically in every direction. The medium being now become more homogeneous, the sonorous wave passes with less difficulty, and the intensity of sound increases, as the separations of the sonorous waves and echoes become less frequent.

FROM THE EDINBURGH PHILOSOPHICAL JOURNAL.

INSTINCTIVE ATTACHMENT OF THE LINNET TO ITS BROOD.

The following anecdote of the common grey linnet has been communicated to us by Mr. William Strang, an enterprising farmer at Lopness, in the island of Sanda, Orkney, and a diligent observer of facts illustrative of the natural history of the animals which frequent our northern islands. "During the summer of 1818, (says Mr. Strang,) my children having found a linnet's nest, containing four young ones nearly fledged, resolved to carry home nest and brood, with the view of feeding and taming the young birds. The parent birds, attracted by the chirping of their young, continued fluttering around the children until they reached the house. The nest was carried up stairs to the nursery, and placed outside the window. The old birds soon afterwards made their appearance; approached the nest, and fed their family, without showing alarm. This being noticed, the nest was soon afterwards placed on a table in the middle of the apartment, and the window left open. The parent birds came boldly in, and fed their offspring as before. I was called up stairs to witness this remarkable instance of strong parental attachment. To put it still further to the test, I placed the nest and young within a bird-cage; still the old ones returned, entered boldly within the cage, and supplied the wants of their brood as before; nay, towards evening, the parent birds actually perched on the cage, regardless of the noise made

around them by several children. This pleasing scene continued for several days; when an unlucky accident put an end to it, to the great grief of my young naturalists. The cage had been again set on the outside of the window, and was unluckily left exposed to one of those sudden and heavy falls of rain which often occur in the Orkneys; the consequence was, that the whole of the young were drowned in the nest. The poor parents, who had so boldly and indefatigably performed their duty, continued hovering around the house, and looking wistfully in at the window for some days, and then disappeared."

FROM THE NEW MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

ORGANIC REMAINS.

The quarries of marble whence the blocks are taken for the construction of the Plymouth break-water are situated at Oreston, on the eastern shore of Catwater. They consist of one vast mass of compact close-grained marble: seams of clay, however, are interposed through the rock, in which there are also large cavities, some empty, and others partially filled with clay. In one of these caverns in the solid rock, fifteen feet wide, forty-five feet long, and twelve feet deep, nearly filled with compact clay, were found imbedded fossil bones belonging to the rhinoceros and portions of the skeletons of three different animals, all of them in the most perfect state of preservation. The part of the cavity in which these bones were found was seventy feet below the surface of the solid rock, sixty feet horizontally from the edge of the cliff, and one hundred and sixty feet from the original edge by the side of the Catwater. Every side of the cave was solid rock: the inside had no incrustation of stalactite, nor was there any external communication through the rock in which it was imbedded, nor any appearance of an opening from above, being closed by infiltration.

FROM THE SAME.

RECEIPT FOR PRESERVING MILK.

The following method of preserving milk at sea during the longest voyage, and in the warmest climate, equally sweet as when it was first drawn from the cow, ought to be more generally known:—Provide a quantity of pint or quart bottles (new ones are perhaps the best); they must be perfectly sweet and clean, and likewise very dry before they are made use of. Instead of drawing the milk from the cow into the pail, as usual, it is to be milked into the bottles: as soon as any of them are filled sufficiently, they should be immediately well corked with the very best corks, in order to keep out the external air, and fastened tight with packthread or wire, as the corks in bottles which contain cider generally are. Then on the bottom of an iron or copper boiler spread a little straw, on that lay a row of the bottles filled with milk, with some straw betwixt each to prevent them from breaking, and so on alternately, until the boiler has got a sufficient quantity in; then fill it up with cold water. Heat the water gradually until it begins to boil; and as soon as that is perceivable, draw the fire: the bottles must remain undisturbed in the boiler until they are quite cold: then take them out, and afterwards pack them in hampers, either with straw or sawdust, and stow them in the coolest part of the ship. Several years since, the writer tasted some milk on board a Swedish or Danish ship in the harbour of Liverpool, which had been carried twice to the West Indies and back to Denmark. The captain said it was milked in the bottles at Copenhagen upwards of eighteen months previous to that time; it was as sweet,

or more so (we imagined), than when first milked from the cow. The perpetual motion of the sea, in time, improves milk equally as much as it does Madeira wine.

FROM THE SAME.

DR. KNOX.

Died, at Tunbridge, on the 6th Sept. the Rev. Dr. Vicesimus Knox, after a short but painful illness. He was born in London in 1752. His father, who was master of Merchant Tailor's school, had been a fellow of St. John's College, Oxford, where he was entered under the name of Vicesimus Knock, B. C. L. Oct. 19, 1753; but what occasioned the change in the spelling of the name, we are not informed. The son received his education under his parent; after which he removed to the same college on an exhibition, obtained a fellowship, and took the degree of M. A. in 1779. By the interest of his father, he obtained the mastership of Tunbridge School, where he married the daughter of an eminent bookseller, and discharged the duties of his situation until 1812; he then resigned in favour of his son, the Rev. T. Knox. Dr. Knox received the degree of D. D., we believe, from an American university. Dr. Knox was, during life, an asserter of religious freedom. A zealous friend of the establishment (as his various theological treatises evince), he considered its perfect security consistent with the most liberal toleration of all denominations of Christians: an ardent lover of civil liberty, as asserted at the revolution, and a warm philanthropist, all his works are interspersed either with the soundest constitutional principles, or with lessons of the purest benevolence. His polished style had long ranked him, as an author, among the classics of the country—especially in the department of the Belles Lettres. In the pulpit he possessed a most commanding eloquence; in private life none conciliated more affection and esteem. There was a singleness of heart that displayed itself in all his words and actions; his manners were unassuming, and his habits unobtrusive; but when not under the influence of an occasional depression, there was a fervour in his language that gave a peculiar and delightful animation to his conversation, which was enriched with all the stores of literature. The grand and distinguishing feature of his character was a noble independence of sentiment, that made him scorn the concealment of his opinions (however injurious personally to himself might be their avowal) wherever and whenever he felt, that the interests of learning, liberty, or truth were attacked. His *Essays* were published forty years since. The present improved state of the English universities was a source of high satisfaction to him. His earliest efforts were to produce reform in their discipline. After encountering the usual opposition, which attends all who honestly and ably expose abuses, he had the gratification of finding his suggestions adopted, and their success complete. Another of his objects was to inculcate a general feeling of the *folly and wickedness of war*. It is a subject he frequently recurs to in his miscellaneous pieces. He translated a tract of Erasmus, entitled "*Bellum dulce inexpertis*," and named it "*Antipolemus*." A respectable society has since been formed, who have taken the appellation of Antipolemists. The state of the world has certainly, of late, not been favourable to their merciful views. It is not intended in this hasty article to specify the numerous works of Dr. Knox; they have been too well received to make it necessary: few being more generally known.* His last production was a pamphlet, written a few months since, upon the national advantages of "Classical Learning," a subject then likely to have come in-

* See Dictionary of Living Authors.

cidentally before parliament. This composition may be taken, though produced upon a temporary occasion, as a fair specimen of the powers of the writer; for force of argument and splendour of diction, it has been rarely equalled.

FROM THE NEW MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

ACQUAINTANCES.

* * * * * It were endless to enumerate the various fashions, perplexities, and despondencies, attendant on touching of hats, shaking of hands, making of bows, and saluting of cousins. Some lift the hand to the uppermost button of the coat, as a kind of half-way house between the breeches-pocket and hat-leaf, and if you be short-sighted, will never forgive you;—there is no balm in Gilead for non-salutation. These canvassers of bows are in the first rank of nuisances; they possess an astonishing ubiquity; you are not safe for having once passed them; “again, again, and oft again,” must thy best beaver pay toll at the turning of a corner. There is a very amusing paper in “The Indicator,” upon shaking hands; the writer abets the cordial shake, and tells a story of some one’s introducing a fish-slice into the passive hand of an acquaintance by way of rebuke. I have envied the said fish-slice since, when in the hands of Hibernians and seamen, who are both unconscionable in their grasp.

With ladies, however, it is a very agreeable salutation, if it be not in the dog-days, not to mention the convenience of having such a tacit barometer of affection. As a hint, a hearty shake or loving squeeze is much better than endangering the corns of a mistress or dirtying her stockings. Though in these cases, as in all others, moderation should be used: it is extremely awkward to see (as I have) a cornelian ring fly from a fair hand, owing to the rude pressure of an unhandy beau, or by burying the diamond or garnet in the finger, to produce an exclamation too confessional of the ardour of the address. Every one has heard the comical story of two gentlemen, seated on each side of a lady, each flattering himself that he possessed the hand of the fair one, till they convinced one another of the mutual mistake, by squeezing the blood out of their eight fingers. But not one of my gentle readers, I dare say, would be at a loss to recall a similar *contre-tems* of his own when a novice in the tender passion; he had rather trust his fingers with the secret than his tongue.

There is an ingenious writer in this very magazine, who

“Has some stout notions on the kissing score.”

I am not at all inclined to agree with him, being myself a downright monosculist. Let the lip and the heart go together but—to one. I protest against kissing three hundred country cousins four times a year, twice at Christmas and twice at Whitsuntide. It is by far too much of a good thing. * * *

Variety.

CASHMERE GOATS.

A Paris journal contains the following particulars relative to the Cashmere goats, which were some time ago imported to France:—

The flock consists of about 180 goats. The animals are enclosed in a large meadow, surrounded by trees, which afford them an agreeable shade. On two sides of the meadow there are reservoirs of fresh water, and pen-folds constructed on the model of those of the *Jardin des Plantes*. The

goats are permitted to go in and out of the penfolds freely, but they are constantly kept separate, so that the growth of these interesting animals and the increase of their down may be closely observed. The young ones resemble little dogs in form. They differ, in many respects, from our native race of goats; they have hanging ears, curled tails, and horns, for the most part straight and crossed. They are not in general larger than our goats, but they have more body, and when compared with our finest species of white goats, there appears to be a difference nearly equal to that which exists between the Arabian and European horses.

The milk of the Thibet goats is so nutritious and abundant, that the young ones, when three weeks old, are as large and strong as the French goats at the age of three months. They are likewise remarkably tame, and easily kept in flocks. They are fed at as little expense as the French goats, for they eat every thing, even Indian chesnuts, potato-blossoms, weeds, withered flowers, branches and leaves of all kinds. Consequently, without taking any thing from the pasturage of cows, the Cashmere goats may be kept in any park or meadow, merely on the waste verdure.

ELECTRIC EEL.

An electric eel (*Gymnotus Electricus*) was lately brought to Paris from America, and, in trying upon it the experiments of M. Humboldt, a very singular occurrence took place. Several naturalists had already subjected themselves to electric shocks, more or less violent, by touching the fish, which is of the size of a large eel, when Dr. Janin de Saint Jusk seized it with both his hands, and was rewarded with a succession of shocks more severe than Volta's pile would have given. Indeed, he was exposed to real danger, in consequence of finding it impossible to loose his hold of the animal, notwithstanding its every motion agitated his whole frame to an excessive degree. An involuntary contraction forced him to grasp it with supernatural strength, and the more he grasped, the more dreadful did the electrical shocks become. They extorted from him the most agonizing cries, which alarmed all present, including Messrs. Alibert, Geoffroy, St. Hilaire, Serre, and Larrey, who were even afraid for his life, as it is probable, had he continued long in the situation, that death must have ensued. No one knew how to assist him. "Let go, let go!" they cried, but he had not the power to follow their advice. Happily it occurred to him to replunge the eel into its tub, and scarcely were his hands wetted, when the contact of the water (acting as a conductor) enabled him to let his enemy slip.

PRESERVATION OF ATHENS.

It is with no common feelings of national pride, that we insert the following document, so truly worthy of our country, and so highly honourable to her representative, Lord Strangford. Of the character of that noble lord, we have heard many admirable traits; but his fine taste for literature, his love of the arts, and his devotion to science, were never more brilliantly illustrated than by this act which was anxiously performed, and, we have every reason to believe, has alone saved the most interesting vestiges of antiquity in Greece from utter destruction.

Translation of Letters addressed by his Highness the Grand Vizier to the Governor General of the Morea, and to the Commander of the Turkish Troops at Athens.

"The English Ambassador, Lord Viscount Strangford, residing at the Sublime Porte, having learned that the Ottoman troops (whom, may Victory always follow!) are on the road to deliver Athens from the Rebels who have taken possession of it, has presented an official note, signed with his respectable name, in which he has said that it would be very agreeable to

his Majesty the King of Great Britain, if orders were issued for the protection of the ancient buildings and temples, and other monuments of antiquity, which exist in the city and neighbourhood of Athens, and which have at all times been highly interesting to the learned in Europe.

"Now as his said Majesty is full of friendship towards the Sublime Porte, as the cordial affection and confidence of the two governments increase from day to day, and as the ancient temples and other antiquities of Athens have always attracted the admiration of Europe, it is worthy of the dignity of the Sublime Porte to take measures for the preservation of these curious objects, with the design, moreover, of doing what will be agreeable to the King of England, and to his Ambassador our good friend.

"Therefore, with the sagacity which characterises you, we desire you to employ your authority, and to give competent orders to all whom it may concern, that the ancient buildings of Athens and its neighbourhood may be preserved untouched, in their present state; that no damage be done to them; and that no complaint may be made to us by our friend the Ambassador, or by others, that these our orders have not been strictly obeyed."

PERSIAN DIPLOMA.

The diploma of the Persian Order of the Lion and the Sun, which the celebrated Orientalist, M. Joseph de Hanmer, lately received, conveys a curious example of the originality of Oriental style. The following is a literal translation:—"Very estimable, very honourable, eloquent in the art of oratory, penetrating, able interpreter of the language of the good Christian people who believe in Jesus, Councillor of the High Imperial Court of Germany, whose pen is well cut, and whose writing is a flourish, whose fingers are sharp, and whose tongue active, column of the most excellent, most venerated study of ten languages, Joseph Hanmer!" &c.

TRAVELS IN AFRICA.

The newspapers mention that lieutenant Beechey, who has travelled a good deal in Egypt, is about to sail on an expedition to explore the coasts of ancient Libya, and penetrate, as occasions suit, so far into the interior as is practicable, with a view to examine the ancient monuments of Greece and Rome, spread over that country. A small vessel is assigned for this purpose, which will attend the expedition, and land those to whom the mission is intrusted wherever it is deemed necessary. Libya Proper extended from Egypt on the east to what is now called Tripoli on the west; and it is said that several years will be devoted to this inquiry.

Doctor Woodney, lieutenant Clapperton, of the royal navy, and lieutenant Denman, of the army, left Weakly's Hotel, on Thursday, for Falmouth. They are about to proceed into the interior of Africa, to determine the course and termination of the river Niger, and are under the protection and authority of lord Bathurst. They proceed from Tripoli to Mourzouk, under the immediate auspices of the Bey of Tripoli, and thence will endeavour to reach Tombuctoo or Bornou. These gentlemen intend going much farther eastward than most of the other expeditions which have attempted to penetrate into Africa, and are full of ardour and high hopes that their enterprise will be successful. We understand that the narrative of an English traveller who penetrated to Tombuctoo, and resided for some time in that city, but was prevented from proceeding farther in the course of the Niger by a war then existing between the nations on its banks, will be shortly published.

CONTRASTS.

It would require an observer, perfectly free from all apprehensions of danger himself, to observe its varied operations and effects on different characters and dispositions; yet there are often instances of conduct so very extraordinary, that they cannot escape the notice of persons who retain a tolerable share of self-possession. In the shipwreck of the *Wager*, when death became most apparent, the crew were very differently affected. One man seemed deprived of reason; and in the ravings of despair, stalked about the deck, flourishing a cutlass over his head, and calling himself the king of the country. He struck every one he came near; and his companions had no other security against his violence, than by knocking him down. Some who had before been reduced by long sickness and scurvy, became as it were petrified and bereaved of sense, and were carried to and fro by the jerks and rolling of the ship, like inanimate logs, without making the slightest effort towards aiding themselves.

So terrible indeed was the scene of foaming breakers all around, that one of the bravest men on board, dismayed at their appearance, would have thrown himself over the rails of the quarter deck into the sea, had he not been prevented; thus

—"men at once life seem to lose, and loath,
Running to lose it, and to save it both."

Although these instances of weakness, or of a want of fortitude, occurred, yet there were several persons on board who retained a presence of mind truly heroic. The man at the helm kept his station, though both rudder and tiller were gone; and being asked by one of the officers, if the ship would steer or not, he first leisurely made a trial by the wheel, and then answered in the negative, with as much respect and coolness, as if she had been in perfect safety. He then applied himself with his usual serenity to his duty, persuaded that it did not become him to desert his post so long as the ship kept together.

PREVENTION OF RUST.

The prevention of rust; on such articles of furniture as are made of polished steel, is an object of great importance in domestic economy. The cutlers in Sheffield, when they have given knife or razor blades the requisite degree of polish, rub them with powdered quicklime, in order to prevent them from tarnishing; and we have been informed, that articles made of polished steel, are dipt in lime-water by the manufacturer, before they are sent into the retail market.

THE BOAR.

On Thursday, the 13th, one of those rare phenomena called a *sea boar* was observed at Plymouth, along the adjacent coast, and also at Truro. The tide rose suddenly about four feet, and immediately retired. Several rivers in the world are regularly subject to this remarkable action of the water. The *boar* in the Severn is an extraordinary and striking sight, when, instead of a common tide, one magnificent and precipitous wall of wave, several feet high, and stretching from bank to bank, rushes up that fine river, and carries the immense mass of water, which fills its channel for thirty miles, from its mouth to above Gloucester. The Indus, and, we believe, two other rivers, exhibit similar appearances.

IRISH PEARLS.

The Newry Telegraph states, that a number of fine pearls have recently been found in a species of muscle, in a river near Omagh. It describes some of them as very large and of great beauty.

LADY HAMILTON.

Lady Hamilton was a servant in the family of Mr. Thomas, at Bewardine, in North Wales; was born there, and brought up till 17. In her prosperity she sent some remittances to Mr. Thomas and two of his sisters.

BECCARIA.

This philosopher of humanity having, in one of the later editions of his admirable work on Crimes and Punishments, in that part which relates to fraudulent bankruptcy, qualified some sentiments which he had originally expressed, but which, on reflection, appeared to himself too severe, he adds in a note, "I am ashamed of what I formerly wrote on this subject. I have been accused of irreligion without deserving it; I have been accused of disaffection to the government, and deserved it as little; I was guilty of a real attack upon the rights of humanity, *and I have been reproached by nobody!*"

NEWSPAPER CIRCULATION.

The following circulation of a single newspaper merits to be recorded among the *memorabilia* of the art of printing: The Observer Sunday newspaper published an extra sheet on the 22d of July, with an account of the late coronation ceremonial. It was spoken of as a full and accurate detail of the ceremonies, and four well executed wood-cuts were introduced, exhibiting interior views of Westminster Abbey and the Hall, and in consequence there have actually been sold no less than 61,500 sets of this one publication, consuming no less than 133,000 fourpenny newspaper stamps, and producing to the revenue upwards of £2000.

AVALANCHE.

All shapes of ruin shrink into insignificance, when compared with this dreadful and gigantic engine of destruction. "In the month of November, 1817, the pale summit of the mountain Kasibeck, on the side which shelves down into the dark valley between Derial and the village which bears the mountain's name, had been seen abruptly to move. In an instant it was launched forward; and nothing was now beheld for the shaken snow, and dreadful overshadowing of the fallen destruction. The noise that accompanied it was the most stunning, bursting, and rolling onward, of all that must make death certain. As the avalanche rushed on, huge masses of rock, rifted from the mountain's side, were driving before it; and the snows and ice of centuries, pouring down in immense shattered forms, and rending heaps, fell, like the fall of an earthquake; covering from human eye, villages, valleys, and people! What an awful moment, when all was still! when the dreadful cries of man and beast were heard no more; and the tremendous avalanche lay a vast, motionless, white shroud on all around."

MR. GIBBON.

When Mr. Fox's library was sold in 1781, the first volume of the "Decline and Fall" was brought to the hammer. It brought three guineas, in consequence of the contention produced by the following MS. note in the well-known hand of "the man of the people:"—"the Author at Brooks's said *that there was no salvation for this country, until six heads of the principal persons in administration were LAID UPON THE TABLE.*" Yet eleven days afterwards, this same gentleman accepted a place under those very ministers, and acted with them ever afterwards.

DUTCH AND FRENCH.

The Dutch are clean in their houses and dirty in their persons. The French exactly the reverse—clean in their persons, but dirty in their houses.

A Paris letter says, "Never has there been such a rage for building at Paris as there is at present. It is affirmed that, during the last two or three months, 25,000 bricklayers, carpenters, &c. have arrived in the capital, all of whom have found employment."

Science.

Compiled for the Saturday Magazine.

Spiders.—The sexton of the church of St. Eustace, at Paris, amazed to find frequently a particular lamp extinct early, and yet the oil consumed only, sat up several nights to perceive the cause. At length he discovered that a spider of surprising size came down the cord to drink the oil. A still more extraordinary instance of the same kind occurred during the year 1751, in the cathedral of Milan. A vast spider was observed there, which fed on the oil of the lamps. M. Morland, of the Academy of Sciences, has described this spider, and furnished a drawing of it. It weighed four pounds, and was sent to the emperor of Austria, and is now in the Imperial Museum at Vienna.

Professor Leslie.—Professor Leslie has made some experiments upon sound excited in hydrogen gas; from which it appeared that the effect was considerably less than what would be produced in atmospheric air of the same density. The cause appeared to depend partly on the tenuity of hydrogen gas, and partly on the rapidity with which the pulsations are conveyed through this very elastic medium.

Natural History.—Professor Lahostalle of Amiens has discovered that straw possesses the quality of serving as a conductor to lightning and hail. Repeated experiments have convinced him that straws united together serve equally well as the iron rods now fixed upon buildings for the former purpose; at the same time that they are not attended with similar inconveniences. In consequence of this discovery, the commonest buildings may be secured from the effects of lightning in the most economical manner, and even crops on the land may be protected from the ravages which they sometimes suffer from hail. The professor treats of the important advantages that may be expected to result from the practical application of his discovery, in a publication entitled *Traité des Parafoudres et des Paragié les en Cordes de paille*.

Question to Naturalists.—In East Friesland, if earths are dug up on the sea coast, &c. from a depth of ten or twelve feet, *plants then grow, which are not otherwise to be met with in those parts of the country.* Did these plants exist in the ancient world? Have their seeds retained the germinating power for some thousand years? Can this power be retained so long? or whence do these plants come?

Literature.

Italy.—The Abbé Maio continues to make important discoveries. He will be able to make large additions to Polybius, and to add many new names to classic literature. We hope soon to be able to submit some further details with specimens.

United States.—The flourishing condition of American literature is proved by the superiority of its periodical journals:

The North American Review, published in Boston, quarterly;

The Philadelphia Journal of the Medical and Physical Sciences, edited by Dr. Chapman, quarterly;

The Archæologia Americana, to be continued annually; and

The American Journal of Science, edited by Professor Silliman, published quarterly, are inferior to no works published in Europe, for good taste, intelligence, and style.

Another tragedy, by Lord Byron, has arrived in London for publication.

Mr. French, late of the University of Edinburgh, announces a translation of Telemachus into Latin, and has circulated a specimen of his performance.

There is nearly ready for publication in 4to. a series of coloured engravings, from original drawings, taken on the spot, by James Wathen, esq. illustrative of the Island of St. Helena, and executed in the same style as those which accompanied his "Journal to India;" to which will be added, two or three very curious wood-cuts relating to *Bonaparte*, a brief historical sketch of the island, and a highly finished portrait of Mr. Wathen.

The Rev. T. H. Horne's Introduction to the Critical Study and Knowledge of the Holy Scriptures it was thought would be ready in the course of October, in four large volumes, 8vo.

Sir George Nayler is preparing a splendid account of the coronation, which will be a heraldic and formal reference for all future ceremonies of the same kind.

The third volume of the works of Napoleon Bonaparte has just been published in Paris. This volume completes the collection of the letters written by Bonaparte while he commanded the army of Italy; and commences the account of the arrangements he made to prepare for the Egyptian expedition. This part also contains the remarkable letter of Matteo Buttafaco and *le Souper de Beaucaire*, or conversations of several inhabitants of the south on the political events of the day. These two last mentioned works of the young lieutenant of artillery have been hitherto almost unknown, and there remained but little hope of recovering them. Two printers, M. Joly, of Dole, and M. Tournal, of Avignon, however, preserved a copy each, and they are now reprinted in their original state. The volume contains upwards of 400 letters of Bonaparte.

Poetry.

FROM BALDWIN'S LONDON MAGAZINE.

COME, GENTLE SLEEP.

Come, gentle sleep, come to these eyes,
And wrap them up in rest;
And let this heart, that inly mourns,
In dreams, at least, be blest.

But, like to nothing on this earth
Let the sweet vision be;
Or else it must remembrance bring
Of something sad to me.

The master-key of all my soul
Hath felt a fearful blow;
And every string that chimed before,
With discord frights me now.

Then, like to nothing on this earth
Let the sweet vision be;
Or else it must remembrance bring
Of something sad to me.